

July 15, 2010

Christine Ducoing
CA

Members of the House Ways and Means Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC

Re: Hearing on Social Security at 75 Years

Dear Members,

While I celebrate this special moment with you, I would also like to remind you that I am one of many that are affected by the GPO/WEP. I worked in industry for 12.5 years and contributed the maximum to Social Security during that time. I then changed careers to teach at the community college level in California, a job that I dearly love. However, I had no idea at the time that this change would cost me so much by reducing my Social Security amount. Had I done no work and paid no taxes during the intervening years instead of teaching, I would receive the full amount of my Social Security. I feel like I am being punished for serving the college students of Solano County! I'm also not sure if I would have changed careers if I had known beforehand about the loss of Social Security. Others who might have considered teaching probably have not done so, if they knew about these offsets.

I sacrificed the full salary of a chemical engineer in order to teach chemistry at a much lower salary. I'm not sorry that I did so, but I do believe it unfair for me to be doubly "penalized" by the decrease in Social Security. I urge all members to move forward on actions to repeal both the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. Please do whatever it takes to get the Social Security Fairness Act (HR 235/SB 484) into the House and Senate for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Christine Ducoing